Agreement between IOC and Balal of Iran

108. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreement arrived at between IOC and Balal of Iran for Oil exploration in the oil sector; and

(b) the extent to which country's dependence on the import of oil would be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) No agreement has been arrived at between IOC and Balal oil field in Iran.

Blowing up of ONGC Pipeline by ULFA Rebels

109. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ULFA rebels blew up an ONGC pipeline in Assam's Sibsagar district recently disrupting the supply of crude oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the estimated loss suffered as a result thereof;

(c) in how many cases during the last two years ONGC pipeline were blown up cut off by the ULFA rebels disrupting the oil supply stating the loss suffered of a consequence thereof;

(d) whether Government have analysed the security arrangements to identify the loopholes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) On 1-1-2000, a crude oil pipeline of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was blown up in Sibsagar district of Assam reportedly by United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) resulting in loss of 150 tonnes of crude oil produciton.